



# Lead Poisoning Prevention News

Orange County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

October 2009

Volume 1, Number 1

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## In The News

- *The Orange County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program has embarked on a Traditional Pottery Survey Project. The project surveys various retail facilities to look for traditional pottery and ceramic dishware. Lead testing may be performed on site.*

- *The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has fined a South San Francisco-based painting contractor \$10,000 for failing to inform the owner and tenants of a multi-family residence about lead-based paint hazards before starting exterior paint work.*

- *CPSA to Enforce New CPSIA Requirements for Children's Products Effective August 14.*

*The limit for lead in children's products drops from 600 parts per million (ppm) to 300 ppm. After August 14, it will be unlawful to manufacture, import, sell, or offer for sale, a children's product that has more than 300 ppm of lead in any part (except electronics) that is accessible to children.*

*The limit for lead in paint and similar surface-coating materials for consumer use drops from 600 ppm to 90 ppm. The lead paint limits also apply to toys and other articles intended for children as well as certain furniture products.*

## Contractors and the EPA's new RRP Rule

In April, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the **Renovation, Repair, and Painting** (RRP) Regulation in an effort to protect children and adults from lead exposure due to renovation activities, such as sanding, scraping, cutting, and demolition. These renovation activities can create hazardous amounts of lead dust and chips that can be harmful to children, adults, and even pets.

As of December 22, 2008, contractor/renovators must provide the EPA pamphlet "Renovate Right" to the occupants of a pre-1978 home, child-occupied facility, or school before beginning work.

Beginning April 22, 2010, contractor/renovators must be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. The rule affects:

- renovation and remodeling contractors
- maintenance workers
- painters and other specialty trades.

For more info: [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)

\*Note that the State of California has its own requirements for lead in CCR Title 17.

## Lead-Based Paint: A Short History



*Children living in housing built before 1978 (when lead-based paint was banned from residential use) that are undergoing renovation, repair, and painting (RRP) activities should be considered at high risk for elevated blood lead levels (BLLs), and appropriate precautions should be taken to prevent exposure.*

*Centers for Disease Control, Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report, January 30, 2009*

The modern debate for banning lead-based paint began around 1900 though lead's toxicity was known as far back in time as the Roman Empire. Greek writers were describing lead's toxicity in 2,000 BC. By the mid-1920's, lead-based paint was determined to be harmful to children and, in 1943, TIME magazine reported on a lead poisoning article published in the American Journal of Diseases of Children making it a national issue. By 1956, PARADE magazine published an article titled, "Don't Let YOUR Child Get Lead Poisoning" and CBS television ran a broadcast on childhood lead poisoning. In 1978, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission finally banned the use of residential paints

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Oct. 18-24, 2009

### Useful Lead Links

[www.ochealthinfo.com/lead](http://www.ochealthinfo.com/lead)  
**Orange County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLPPB](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLPPB)  
**California Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch**

[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

[www.hud.gov/offices/lead](http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead)  
**U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control**

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)  
**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

### Contact Us

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containing more than 600 ppm lead.

Historically, lead pigments were added to paint to make it more durable and water resistant. Lead made the colors more vibrant while also inhibiting mold growth. It was considered good paint for exterior surfaces, kitchens, bathrooms, window sills, doors, and baseboards. It was even used on cribs and toys. Lead poisoning can occur if lead-based paint is chewed on, swallowed, or if dust from disturbed or deteriorating lead-based paint is ingested. Lead dust, the most common exposure source for lead poisoning, is generated from friction and impact surfaces (windows, doors, baseboards) and from renovation, repair, and painting projects.

Existing coatings on pre-1978 structures are considered to be lead-based paint if the lead concentration is equal to or exceeds 5,000 ppm, 0.5% by weight, or 1.0 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Testing is usually done using an x-ray fluorescence analyzer. This is a portable x-ray machine that can almost instantly identify lead-based paint on a variety of surfaces in the field.

*\*Partially adapted from "History of Lead Advertising," Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center*

## Traditional Ceramic Dishware and Lead



*Example of Oaxacan pottery known to contain high levels of lead in the glaze.*

Traditional ceramic dishware can be found in many homes and sold in ethnic markets and swap meets. They may also be purchased in other countries by travelers. While beautiful, they may also contain harmful lead. When food and drink are stored, prepared, and served in them, lead can leach into the food and drink causing lead poisoning and severe health consequences. Lead harms the brain, kidneys, and other organs in the body. Lead poisoning makes it difficult for children to learn and succeed in school. In high doses, lead causes seizures, coma, and death.

Lead is found in the glaze or the painted decoration of ceramic dishware. Acidic foods like citrus juices, salsa, alcoholic beverages, and coffee cause lead to leach out of the dishware more than non-acidic foods.

Ceramic dishware may be tested for lead by a laboratory or consumers may buy a color-change test kit, such as Lead Check Swabs, at hardware stores.

In California, Proposition 65 and the California Tableware Safety Act address sale of traditional ceramic dishware.

For more info:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/CLPPB/Pages/CLPPBtableware.aspx>

*\*Partially adapted from "Lead in Traditional Ceramic Dishware", Contra Costa Public Health*